

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

1. (Previously Presented) An insert attachable to an insert magazine of a tray for holding an area array type electronic component to be tested, comprising:

    a supporting portion for supporting an external terminal face of the area array type electronic component to orient and expose external terminals of the area array type electronic component in a direction facing connection terminals of a socket, wherein

        a thickness of the supporting portion is approximately equal to or less than a distance between a contact portion of the external terminals of the area array type electronic component and the external terminal face of the area array type electronic component, and

        the supporting portion is provided to be positioned between the external terminal face of the area array type electronic component and the connection terminal face of the socket when the external terminals of the area array type electronic component and the connection terminals of the socket are connected.

2. (Original) The insert as set forth in claim 1, wherein the supporting portion is configured by a thin plate.

3. (Previously Presented) The insert as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plate member comprising the supporting portion is provided to the insert so as to face the connection terminal face of the socket.

4. (Original) The insert as set forth in claim 3, wherein a supporting portion part or whole of the plate member is configured by a thin plate.

5. (Previously Presented) The insert as set forth in claim 3, wherein the plate member has an opening portion for exposing the external terminals of the area array type electronic component to the direction of the connection terminals of the socket, and can support the external terminal face of the area array type electronic component by a rim of the opening portion.

6. (Original) The insert as set forth in claim 5, wherein the rim of the opening portion of the plate member is configured by a thin plate.

7. (Previously Presented) The insert as set forth in claim 3, wherein the plate member is attached to an insert body as a separate member from the insert body.

8. (Previously Presented) The insert as set forth in claim 3, wherein the plate member is configured by a metal plate.

9. (Previously Presented) The insert as set forth in claim 1, being attached to a tray for carrying an electronic component to be tested to and from a contact portion of a test head of an electronic component testing apparatus.

Claims 10 - 11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) An electronic component testing method for conducting a test on an area array type electronic component, comprising  
inserting the area array type electronic component into a testing tray,  
supporting an external terminal face of the area array type electronic component by a rim of an opening portion of a plate member located on the testing tray and having the opening portion,

pressing the area array type electronic component in the direction of connection terminals of a socket in a state that external terminals of the area array type electronic component are exposed from the opening portion to the direction of the connection terminals of the socket, and

connecting the external terminals of the area array type electronic component with the connection terminals of the socket,

wherein

a thickness of the rim of the opening portion of the plate member is approximately equal to or less than a distance between a contact portion of the external terminals of the area array type electronic component and the external terminal face of the area array type electronic component, and

the plate member is positioned between the external terminal face of the area array type electronic component and the connection terminal face of the socket when the external terminals of the area array type electronic component and the connection terminals of the socket are connected.

13. (Previously Presented) The insert as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of inserts selectively attachable to the insert magazine of the tray each for holding an

area array type electronic component to enable the area array type electronic component to be tested simultaneously with other array type electronic components.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the inserting of the area array type electronic component into a testing tray comprises inserting a plurality of area array type electronic components into a testing tray.

15. (Previously Presented) An electronic component handler for an electronic component testing apparatus, comprising:

a test tray including an insert magazine;  
an insert selectively attachable to the insert magazine of the test tray for holding an area array type electronic component to be tested, the insert including a supporting portion for supporting an external terminal face of the area array type electronic component to orient and expose external terminals of the area array type electronic component in a direction facing connection terminals of a socket, wherein

a thickness of the supporting portion is approximately equal to or less than a distance between a contact portion of the external terminals of the area array type electronic component and the external terminal face of the area array type electronic component, and

the supporting portion is provided to be positioned between the external terminal face of the area array type electronic component and the connection terminal face of the socket when the external terminals of the area array type electronic component and the connection terminals of the socket are connected.

16. (Previously Presented) The electronic component handler as set forth in claim 15, further comprising a plurality of inserts selectively attachable to the insert magazine of the tray each for holding an area array type electronic component to enable the area array type electronic component to be tested simultaneously with other array type electronic components.